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History and Government of Illinois

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A Supplement to

ELEMENTARY AMERICAN HISTORY AND
GOVERNMENT

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HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT OF ILLINOIS

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THE FRENCH IN ILLINOIS

Early Explorations. So far as we know, Joliet and Marquette were the first white men to explore what is now Illinois. The French had settled at Montreal and Quebec and had explored most of the region about the Great Lakes. Their fur traders and priests had gone far into the woods and it is more than probable that some had entered Illinois. The fur traders heard of a great body of water to the west and, in the course of time, similar tales reached the ear of Count Frontenac, governor of New France.

Joliet and Marquette. As the European nations were still anxious to find a water route to China and India, the French thought that this body of water to the west might lead to the Pacific Ocean, and so to Asia. Consequently, in 1672, Frontenac selected a brave fur trader named Joliet to find out what he could about the strange body of water, and especially to learn whether it flowed into the Pacific Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

Joliet started from Quebec in the fall of 1672, crossed to Lake Huron by way of the Ottawa River, and spent the winter at St. Ignace, a small mission station on Mackinac Straits. Here he found Father Marquette, a Jesuit priest who was anxious to visit the Illinois Indians. Joliet was glad to have Marquette's company, and the following May they began their journey. They went up the coast of Lake Michigan to Green Bay,

ascended the Fox River, carried their canoes across to the Wisconsin, paddled down that, and came out on the broad Father of Waters.



MARQUETTE'S WINTER CAMP NEAR CHICAGO

This was beyond doubt the first white man's residence in Illinois. From a painting in the auditorium of the Normal School at Macomb.

On their way down that great river they saw many wonderful things. Near the mouth of the Rock River they found a hunting party of Illinois Indians with whom they had a friendly visit. Farther down they saw a great muddy stream flowing in from the west. On the rocky bluff near Alton they saw strange

figures painted on the high cliff. They went on down the river until some Indians warned them of hostile tribes farther down and told them the mouth of the river was distant only a few days' journey. From the direction the river flowed Joliet knew it must empty into the Gulf of Mexico and, as he had found out what he was sent for, he and Marquette started back. When they came to the Illinois River, they paddled up that stream and up the Des Plaines nearly to where Chicago now stands, then carried their canoes across to the Chicago River, and reached Lake Michigan. Joliet went back to report to Governor Frontenac, and Marquette made plans to return to the Illinois Indians and convert them.

The First Mission Station. It was about a year before he was able to do this, but in 1674 he reached the Chicago River, built a rude cabin, and spent the winter there. He wished to go on to the villages of the Illinois Indians near Lake Peoria, but was not strong enough until spring. Then he pushed on and succeeded in founding the first regular mission in the state.

La Salle. The French were chiefly interested in the fur trade, but it was a long way from the Illinois country to Montreal and Quebec where the furs were sold. There were no large boats on the Great Lakes then, and it was almost impossible to carry heavy skins and furs in the small canoes. Consequently the fur trade in Illinois was undeveloped.

La Salle, an adventurous Frenchman, thought he saw a way to make a fortune out of the fur trade in Illinois. His plan was to get a monopoly of the fur trade in this region from the king of France, build a large boat on the Great Lakes to carry his furs to market, establish regular trading stations in Illinois, build another large boat on the Illinois River to collect the furs from the Indians living along the various tributaries of the Mississippi, send them across to Lake Michigan, and thence by his first boat to his stations in Canada.

The first part of the plan was carried out; the king gave him the grant, he built a sailing vessel, which he called the *Griffin*,

on Lake Erie, and sailed to Green Bay. Here he loaded it with a rich cargo of furs and sent it back to unload and bring him fresh supplies, while he with his trusty friend Tonty went on to the Illinois to make treaties with the Indians and build another large boat on the Illinois River. It was early in the winter of 1679-1680 when La Salle and his party reached the large Indian village near Lake Peoria. The boat was soon built, but they had no chains, sails, or anchors. These were to be brought by the *Griffin* on its return voyage, but that ship with its rich cargo was lost. Consequently La Salle had to go back to Fort Frontenac to get supplies, leaving Tonty to look after things in Illinois. He had already sent one of his companions, Father Hennepin, to explore the upper Mississippi. While La Salle was gone, a war party of Iroquois Indians from New York invaded the country, killed many of the Illinois Indians, burned their villages, and drove them from their homes.

La Salle saw, when he returned to Illinois with his supplies, that something must be done to protect his Indian fur hunters from the Iroquois, else his trade would be ruined. So he planned a great Indian confederacy, including nearly all the tribes in the region. These were to move their villages to a high bluff on the Illinois River, called "The Rock," and settle around it. On the rock La Salle was to build a fort so strong that no Indian war party could take it. Thus his Indians would be safe from future attacks from the Iroquois. The old men and the women and children could raise corn enough for all, and the braves could spend their time collecting furs.

Tonty was intrusted with the details of the arrangement for the fort. La Salle had finished his boat and began to explore the lower Mississippi, finally discovered its mouth, took possession of the whole Mississippi valley in the name of France, and returned to the fort which Tonty was building. It was named St. Louis in honor of the king of France.

Things looked prosperous to La Salle in the fall of 1682.

From his fort he could look out on a wonderfully rich river valley capable of producing enough corn to feed many thousands of people. He could also see the villages of many tribes of Indians, totaling some twenty thousand and including about four thousand warriors — one of the largest settlements of Indians ever collected on the continent. He could also see the substantial houses of his own countrymen who had come to the new colony in large numbers. Surely there was no more danger from the Iroquois!

Soon a new danger confronted him. All his furs had to go to market by way of Canada and all of his supplies come in that way. His old friend, Frontenac, was no longer governor, but a man who was unfriendly to La Salle ruled in his place. Soon La Salle found his supplies stopped and his furs seized. All of his hard work and vast expenditure of money were about to be lost.

To save his settlement, La Salle decided to break away entirely from Canada and bring his supplies in by way of the Mississippi. But at that time no French ship had ever come to the Mississippi, so it was necessary for him to return to France. There he again got the king's favor, was given a fleet of vessels, secured many settlers who were willing to come to America, and started for the mouth of the Mississippi. Unfortunately he missed this, landed west of it on the coast of Texas, was unable to find his way back, and was finally killed by one of his own men.

The little settlement at Fort St. Louis had been left under the care of Tonty; but, when La Salle failed to return, the Indians gradually left for their old villages, and the fort was soon entirely abandoned.

Permanent Settlements. The abandonment of Fort St. Louis left the Illinois Indians unprotected, and by 1700 they had moved south and west and established their villages along the Mississippi River, between the mouths of the Illinois and the Kaskaskia rivers. The Jesuit missionaries moved with

them to the Kaskaskia River and soon a French settlement grew up at the village of that name. Within the same year another mission station was founded at Cahokia.

Illinois a Part of Louisiana. Illinois was no longer a part of Canada but was, in 1712, attached to Louisiana. It grew very slowly until it came into the hands of John Law's Company of the West in 1718. Law had great schemes for making money out of the country.

One way was to develop the gold and silver mines supposed to exist. To do this a man named Renault was sent over with many expert miners and several negroes, which he purchased in San Domingo to do the hard labor in the mines. Renault arrived at Kaskaskia with his men and negroes almost exactly one hundred years after slavery was introduced at Jamestown. As no mines were found the negroes were put to work building a fort called Fort Chartres. Finally they were sold to the farmers near there and so remained in the country.

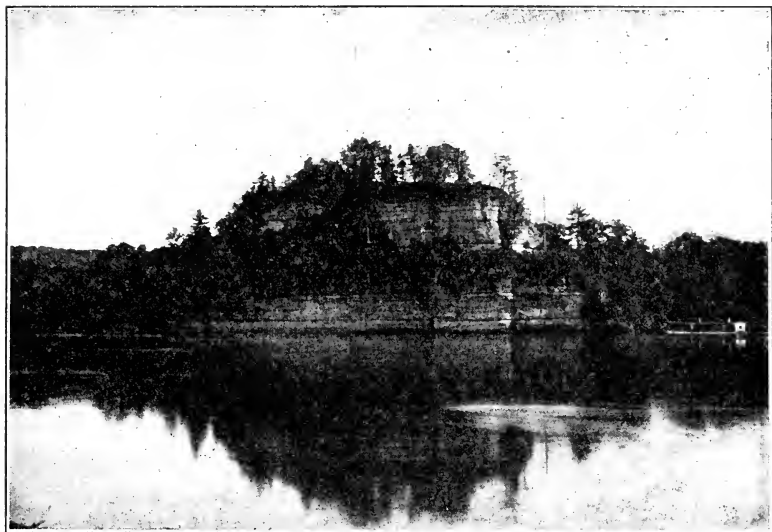
A Royal Province. When the Company of the West gave up its rights in 1732, the Illinois settlements were joined to Louisiana and governed directly by officials appointed by the king. By 1750 there were five villages with about eleven hundred whites living along the Mississippi between the Illinois and Kaskaskia rivers.

The French Inhabitants. These people were chiefly farmers, hunters, and fur traders. They raised wheat and live stock and shipped their surplus products to New Orleans on flatboats and rafts. There they bought cloth, ammunition, tools, and other manufactured goods. Unlike the English, they did not spin and weave their own cloth; nor did they care for corn bread, but used wheat flour, ground in their own mills.

The French settlers were rather an easy-going, lazy, pleasure-loving people, fond of dancing and amusements of all kinds. The noisy serenade of newly married couples called by its French name, *charivari*, was borrowed from the French by the Kentuckians, and still exists in many parts of the state.

The people of Illinois took but little part in the various inter-colonial wars, except the French and Indian. The garrison at Fort Duquesne was from Illinois as was the force that captured Washington at Fort Necessity. The French also drew their supplies from Illinois.

Treaty of Paris, 1763. In the Treaty of Paris the Illinois country with the rest of the French possessions was given to the



STARVED ROCK

English, but it was more than two years before the English got to Kaskaskia to take possession. This delay was caused by Pontiac's Conspiracy which included many of the western Indians.

The French in Illinois were very angry at being ceded to the English and many moved across the river and founded new settlements in what they supposed was French territory. This was the beginning of St. Louis, Cape Girardeau, and other towns. For the next thirteen years Illinois was ruled by the English.

Starved Rock. The sequel to Pontiac's Conspiracy occurred in Illinois in 1769. Pontiac had been visiting in St. Louis and

crossed over to Cahokia where he was murdered by a Kaskaskia Indian. The northern tribes who were friendly to Pontiac charged the Illinois Indians with responsibility for the death of the great chieftain and soon began a war of extermination against them. Tradition says the Illinois were finally forced to take refuge on the top of the rock where Fort St. Louis once stood. There they were closely besieged by their enemies, were cut off from all supplies of food and water, and in their weakened condition were nearly all killed. Their whitening bones long lay exposed on the top of the rock, giving it the name it still bears, "Starved Rock."

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Why was Joliet sent to explore the Mississippi River?
2. Draw a map showing La Salle's explorations.
3. How was slavery introduced into Illinois?
4. Write an essay on "Starved Rock."

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1. Parkman, "Pioneers of France in the New World."
2. Parkman, "La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West."
3. Parkman, "Conspiracy of Pontiac."
4. Mather, "Making of Illinois."
5. Dunn, "History of Indiana," Chapter III.
6. Smith, "Students' History of Illinois."
7. Moses, "Illinois, Historical and Statistical, I," Chapters III-VI.
8. Parrish, "Historic Illinois," Chapters III-X.

ILLINOIS AN AMERICAN TERRITORY

Clark Takes Illinois from the British, 1778. Pioneers from Virginia and Carolina settled in Kentucky during the first years of the Revolution. General Hamilton, a British officer at Detroit, tried to prevent these settlements by sending out the Indians who lived in the Illinois and Indiana country to attack them. For nearly two years the settlers were in almost constant danger. They could not take care of their crops or clear their land in safety, but most of the time were shut up in the log forts at Boonesborough, Harrodstown, and other places.

At last George Rogers Clark, one of the boldest of the settlers, was sent to Virginia to get help. He persuaded the Virginia legislature to give the Kentuckians a better form of government and also secured ammunition for the settlers.

He was an experienced Indian fighter and knew that the quickest way to stop an Indian attack was to go into the Indian's country and attack his own home. As the Indians were supplied with arms and ammunition and sent out from the old French posts on the Mississippi and Wabash rivers, Clark proposed to capture these and force the Indians to make peace.

Patrick Henry, who was then governor of Virginia, favored his plan and gave him a commission and money. Clark went to Pittsburgh to raise a force of men and met with only fair success. His friends in Kentucky were more enthusiastic and enlisted readily. The men assembled on a small island in the Ohio River near Louisville, where Clark explained his plan and made his final arrangements. They descended the Ohio River, landed near Fort Massac, and marched across to Kaskaskia, arriving opposite the town on the evening of July 4, 1778. The French and English were not suspecting an attack. That night he crossed the river, surprised the town, and captured

the commander without firing a shot. (See the map on page 158.)

The next morning he assembled the people, explained to them that France and America were allies, that the French king had sent an army and a fleet to fight for us, and that he expected the French in Illinois to join with the Americans against the English. He also promised to let them keep their property and their religion. The French were very much pleased and soon were Clark's good friends. Through the friendly aid of Father Gibault, the priest at Kaskaskia, the other French settlements in Illinois and the one at Vincennes promptly declared for the Americans and surrendered to Clark.

General Hamilton, as soon as he heard of Clark's invasion of the Illinois country, organized a large force of British, Canadians, and Indians, and recaptured Vincennes. Thinking it too late in the season to march against Kaskaskia, he dismissed his Indians with orders to assemble for a spring campaign against Clark.

Clark's position at Kaskaskia was now dangerous, as many of his men had gone back to Kentucky. If he waited until summer, Hamilton's force would greatly outnumber his own, and the Indians would turn against him. He determined to capture Hamilton before the latter's Indian allies rejoined him. So in February, 1779, with a small force of French from Illinois and Americans from Kentucky, only one hundred and seventy-three in all, he started across country toward Vincennes. They got along pretty well until they reached the rivers in the eastern part of the state. These were out of their banks, the weather became cold, and they had to wade the icy water for days. To make matters worse they were short of food, but they struggled on until at last they reached the bank of the Wabash and managed to get across the river where they found food, fire, and shelter.

Hamilton did not know that Clark had left Kaskaskia until the Americans began to attack the fort. He supposed Clark

had a much larger force than he had, and Clark kept up the deception. After a short fight General Hamilton surrendered. This ended British authority northwest of the Ohio River and enabled the Americans to get the entire region when the treaty of peace was signed four years later.

Illinois a County of Virginia. State Claims. Clark and his men were Virginia troops, and to her old charter rights that state had added a claim based on conquest. Soon a county government was provided, and for two years Illinois was known as the Illinois County of Virginia. Connecticut and Massachusetts also had claims on this region. You have already learned that Maryland would not ratify the Articles of Confederation until all the states gave up their claims to the western lands. This was finally done, and by 1787 the United States had a full title to all the region northwest of the Ohio River.

Illinois a Part of the Northwest Territory. The Ordinance of 1787 provided a regular territorial government for the entire region. General Arthur St. Clair was the first governor, and he soon fixed the capital at Cincinnati. His first work was to establish county governments for each settlement. At first there were only four counties, and only one of these in Illinois, for all the settlements in this state were put into a single county called St. Clair. The county seat was at Cahokia, and there court was held. The people at Kaskaskia objected to going so far — it was about sixty miles — to court, so the region was divided and Kaskaskia made the county seat of a new county called Randolph.

Indiana Territory. Settlers came into the Northwest Territory rapidly and by 1798 there were enough to have a legislature. This met at Cincinnati and two of the delegates were from Illinois. As the settlers came from the east and had to float down the Ohio, the eastern part of the territory settled up first. By 1800 what is now Ohio was made a separate territory, and the rest was called Indiana. William Henry Harrison was appointed governor of Indiana with the capital at Vincennes.

Slavery. Indenture Laws. Some of the old French slaves, descendants from those brought in by Renault, were still held in Illinois. The Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery everywhere and forever in the region northwest of the Ohio River, but this was interpreted to mean that no new slaves could be brought in, consequently the people in Illinois were permitted to keep their slaves.

The Kentuckians held slaves, and that state was famous for its rapid growth and prosperity. Many of the Illinois settlers had come from Kentucky, were accustomed to slaves, and thought their labor would be necessary to clear the land and get it in cultivation. They were anxious to see Illinois grow rapidly in population and wealth and believed that the prohibition of slavery was the one thing which held the state back; consequently they petitioned Congress several times to repeal the clause in the Ordinance of 1787 prohibiting slavery, but Congress refused.

Many people in Indiana were also in favor of slavery. Since Congress refused to permit it, the Indiana officials arranged for a system of indentures which amounted to slavery. Under the laws adopted, any person was at liberty to bring negroes into the territory, have them sign a paper called an indenture, and continue to hold them in practical slavery. Children of indentured slaves could be held by their masters until the males were thirty and the females twenty-eight years old. Many negroes were brought into the territory and indentured, and thus slavery existed in spite of the Ordinance of 1787.

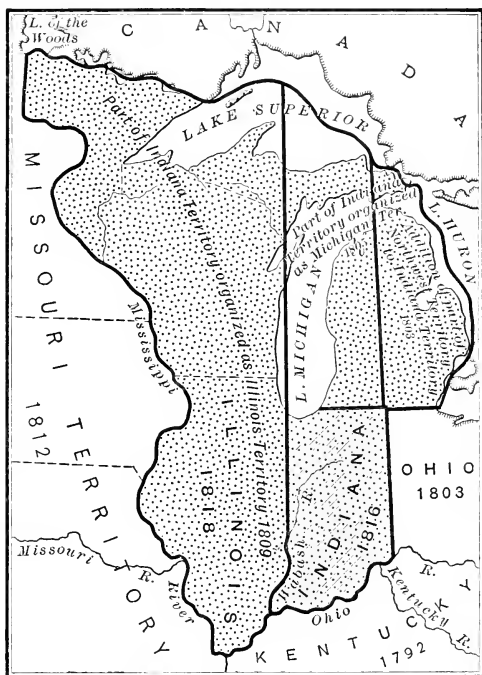
Separation from Indiana, 1809. The people of eastern Indiana had come from Ohio and the eastern states where slavery had been abolished, consequently they opposed slavery in any form and favored the repeal of the indenture laws. They also wished to move the capital further east. Here was a chance for the people in Illinois and eastern Indiana to combine. Both were dissatisfied with the location of the capital. Illinois favored slavery and eastern Indiana opposed it. By dividing the

territory perhaps each could have what it wanted. Consequently both groups voted for a man by the name of Jesse Thomas as delegate to Congress, under a promise that he would work to have Illinois separated from Indiana. He kept his promise and Illinois became a separate territory in 1809.

Illinois Territory. Ninian Edwards was appointed governor of the new territory. The laws of Indiana, including the indenture laws, were adopted and we began all over again to grow into a state.

Indians. Fort Dearborn. Rangers.

In a short time the Indians began to make trouble for the settlers in Illinois and Indiana. Harrison raised an army and defeated them at Tippecanoe and they were quiet for a little while. But in 1812 when the war with England broke out they were again on the war-path. Captain Heald with a few United States troops was stationed at Fort Dearborn, where Chicago now stands. He received orders to retreat to Fort Wayne, Indiana, unless he could hold the fort. The Indians heard that he was going to leave the fort



ILLINOIS AND INDIANA TERRITORIES

Notice the successive divisions of Indiana Territory; first to form Michigan, second to make Illinois. Illinois was not reduced to its present limits until its admission in 1818. The part cut off on the north was called Wisconsin.

and collected about it in large numbers. Captain Heald made the mistake of promising the Indians the supplies he could not take with him. The Indians thought this included the guns, rum, and ammunition, but these were destroyed by Heald before leaving. The troops had gone only a few miles from the fort when the Indians attacked them, killed about one-half the company, and captured the rest. The incident is usually referred to as the "*Massacre of Fort Dearborn.*"

During the rest of the war the people in Illinois had to protect themselves from Indian raids. All the settlements were in the southwestern and southern part of the state. The rest of the state was Indian country. The settlers built blockhouses on the side of the settlements nearest the Indians, cut roads from one blockhouse to another, and had men traverse these roads once a day. Thus if any bands of Indians crossed the roads to attack the settlers, it would be known in time to prevent much loss. In addition to this, Governor Edwards organized companies of mounted soldiers, called rangers, who could follow the Indians quickly. In spite of these precautions, some people were killed, some captured, and much stock stolen. One expedition was made into the Indian country and some Indian villages near Peoria destroyed.

After the war was over the Indians were again peaceful and settlers came in more rapidly than ever before. The men who served in the war were each given one hundred sixty acres of land. The entire western part of the state was set aside for the soldiers and is still known as the Military Tract.

Admission as a State, 1818. By 1818 there were nearly forty thousand people living in Illinois and Congress gave its permission for the preparation of a state constitution. It also offered to the state the sixteenth section in each township in the state as a gift in aid of schools, a whole township to help support a college or seminary of learning, and the salt springs near Shawneetown, which were then very valuable. A convention was soon chosen which drew up a state constitution and accepted

Map of ILLINOIS

Showing early French settle-
ments, blockhouses protecting
the settlements in 1812, and the
proposed internal im-
provements of 1837.



the generous offers of land. As soon as Congress met, the constitution was laid before it and accepted and Illinois was finally admitted as a state, December 5, 1818.

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. What conditions in Kentucky led to the conquest of the Northwest by Clark?
2. What nations and states have had claims on Illinois?
3. Write an essay on "Slavery in Illinois, 1700-1818."
4. Summarize the troubles with the Indians, 1763-1818.
5. What stages of territorial government are provided for in the Ordinance of 1787? How often has Illinois gone through each stage?

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL READING

1. Dunn, "History of Indiana," Chapter IV.
2. Roosevelt, "Winning of the West," I, Chapters X, XI; II, Chapters I-III.
3. Mather, "Making of Illinois."
4. Thwaites, "How George Rogers Clark Won the Northwest."
5. Moses, "Illinois, Historical and Statistical."
6. Hinsdale, "Old Northwest," Chapters V-X.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

The Great Fight Against Slavery, 1822-1824. Those who favored slavery had not given up their plans to make slavery legal in Illinois. Now that we were a state, they argued that we could have slavery if we wanted it, as the Ordinance of 1787 was no longer binding. Their plan was to have another convention called, amend the constitution so as to admit slavery, and declare it adopted without letting the people as a whole vote on it.

Edward Coles, a Virginian, a close friend of Madison and Monroe, and a man of wealth, education, and refinement, had come to Illinois to live in 1819. On his way he freed all his negroes and gave each head of a family a farm. He soon became very well known, as he had charge of the government land office at Kaskaskia. In 1822 he ran for governor and was elected, but the legislature was strongly in favor of slavery. In his first message Governor Coles asked the legislature to repeal the indenture laws which still permitted slavery, but of course it did nothing of the kind. Instead it set to work to call a convention.

The constitution of the state said that two-thirds of each house of the legislature must first vote to ask the people to vote for or against a convention; then, at the next regular election, a majority of the people must vote in favor of holding a convention before such a convention could be elected. After a great deal of trouble two-thirds of the legislature voted to submit the question of calling a convention to the people of the state. Then followed one of the most exciting campaigns the state has ever known.

Governor Coles and Congressman Cook opposed the convention, as did all the other anti-slavery people, for they knew what such a convention would do. Coles gave up a great deal of his

time to the campaign, speaking in every part of the state, paying out his salary for the entire four years in traveling expenses, and urging everywhere the vote against the convention. He was aided by other public spirited men, the most prominent of whom was John M. Peck, a famous Baptist preacher, and Morris Birkbeck, a wealthy, educated Englishman, who had settled with other Englishmen in what is now Edwards county. When the final vote was counted, the convention was beaten by more than a thousand votes and Illinois remained a free state.

The Black Hawk War, 1831-1832. Although the Indians had ceded all their lands in Illinois to the United States government, the Sac and Fox Indians still lived in their village near Rock Island in 1830. It was agreed that they might live there until the land was sold by the United States. Our frontiersmen never liked the Indians and, while the latter were away from their village across the Mississippi River on their annual hunt, many settlers came into their village and took up the land. When the Indians came back they soon got into trouble with the whites, the governor called out the militia, United States soldiers were ordered out, and the Indians forced to leave the state and agree not to return. This was in the summer of 1831.

The next spring, however, Black Hawk and a band of followers returned, claiming he was going to the Winnebagoes in Wisconsin to raise a crop of corn. The people naturally thought he meant to raise mischief in Illinois, and were badly frightened. Troops were again called out, several skirmishes were fought, a number of soldiers and settlers were killed, but finally Black Hawk was chased out of the state into Wisconsin where he was finally overtaken and his entire band either killed or captured.

Results of the War. That was the last Indian scare in Illinois, and it did not amount to much in itself, although some famous men served in it, including Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. It did have an important effect, however, on the settlement of the northwestern portion of the state. The soldiers

who took part in the war were marched across that part of the state in various directions and learned what a fine country it was. When they returned to their homes they told their neighbors what they had seen and soon there was a strong movement of settlers toward the region. The war also served to advertise the northern part of the state, and settlers poured into it from other states. Chicago grew rapidly; at the beginning of the war it was only a village with a few hundred inhabitants: by 1840 it was a city of several thousand.

Internal Improvements. The increase in immigration soon led to a demand for better means of transportation. There were few good roads in the state and no railroads or canals. The rivers were still the chief highways for trade, and the portions of the state which lay beyond the reach of the steamboat remained unsettled and almost inaccessible.

Congress had given the state a right of way through the government lands from the Chicago River to the Illinois, and in addition each alternate section on either side of the right of way five miles back for the construction of a canal uniting Lake Michigan and the Illinois River. Surveys were made and the canal laid out. In 1836 work was actually begun.

That event added to the enthusiasm in favor of other internal improvements. A great convention to boom the plan was held at Vandalia, the state capital, just before the session of the legislature in 1836, which laid out a programme of what ought to be done.

Members of the legislature favored the plan, votes for one measure were traded for votes for another, and in addition the delegation from Sangamon county, which included Abraham Lincoln, traded support for almost any proposition for votes to move the capital to Springfield. The result was that an elaborate scheme of internal improvements was undertaken by the state and the capital was moved to Springfield.

Railroads were to be built from Cairo to the Illinois and Michigan Canal and on to Galena where the lead mines were;

from Alton to Shawneetown; from Alton to Terre Haute, Indiana; from Alton to Mt. Carmel; from Quincy to Danville; from Bloomington to Mackinaw; and from Peoria to Warsaw. In addition the Illinois, Rock, Kaskaskia, and Wabash Rivers were to be improved; the Illinois and Michigan Canal completed; and a quarter of a million dollars in cash for the construction of wagon roads was given to counties which did not obtain railroads, canals, or river improvements.

The money to pay for all these improvements was raised by selling bonds. Work was begun on all at once, the state ran out of money long before the work was completed, and finally the whole plan had to be abandoned. One short line of railroad was completed from Meredosia to Springfield, and trains operated for a time, but it never paid and was finally sold for a small part of its original cost. The Illinois and Michigan Canal was far enough along that it, too, was finished in 1848 and for many years was of great value to the state. It was the only part of the entire scheme, however, that proved successful. Some years later private capital built, and has successfully operated, good railroads along all the lines laid out by the state.

Murder of Lovejoy, 1837. You have already learned how, when the abolition movement started, the southern and some northern men tried to stop it, by shutting its literature from the mails, mobbing its advocates, and denying to them their constitutional rights to be heard through petitions to Congress. One of the most memorable incidents in that struggle occurred in Illinois.

Elijah P. Lovejoy was a preacher and editor of a religious newspaper called the *Observer*. He located first at St. Louis, but later was induced to move to Alton at the time that town was trying to outgrow St. Louis. He early insisted on discussing the slavery issue and favored the formation of a state anti-slavery society to aid the cause of freedom and to protest against the denial of the right of petition.

The friends of slavery in Illinois were no more willing than

those in other parts of the country to permit a free discussion of the slavery question. Three different presses were destroyed in an effort to silence Lovejoy, and when the fourth one came he



THE LOVEJOY MONUMENT AT ALTON

and his friends attempted to defend it. In this attempt he was shot and killed by a mob and his press destroyed. The rash act, however, only made friends for the cause of freedom, for the majority of people believe in fair play.

Owen Lovejoy, a brother of the martyr, took up the fight and became a most relentless foe of slavery. He was an able orator, believed his mission in life was to avenge the blood of his brother on the institution which had been responsible for his death, was sent to Congress, and was one of the foremost men in the formation of the Republican party in this state. His home in Princeton was one of the most important stations on the Underground Railroad which enabled so many slaves to reach Canada and freedom.

The Mormons at Nauvoo. Joseph Smith and his followers, called Mormons, had settled in Ohio and in Missouri. They had trouble with the people of Missouri over religion, slavery, and property; opposed the local authorities; and finally decided to leave the state. In looking for a location, the little town of Commerce on a beautiful bend of the Mississippi River appealed to them, they purchased the entire site, and moved to this state, renaming the town Nauvoo.

On account of their religion, which differed from that of other people in the state, the Mormons wished to conduct their affairs without any interference from outsiders. To do this they secured from the state legislature a special charter which made the city of Nauvoo almost as powerful a government as the state itself. The city court had as much power as the state courts. Smith controlled the city government in Nauvoo including its courts; consequently it was impossible to serve warrants, make arrests, or execute any court orders in Nauvoo which Smith opposed. He himself was arrested on a requisition from Missouri, but his own court turned him loose on a writ of *habeas corpus*.

In the meantime thousands of his followers had moved to Hancock county and Nauvoo had become the largest city in the state. Finally trouble broke out among the Mormons themselves over polygamy, and a mob destroyed a printing press which had opposed the practice. It was claimed that Smith had been responsible for the action of the mob and he and some of his

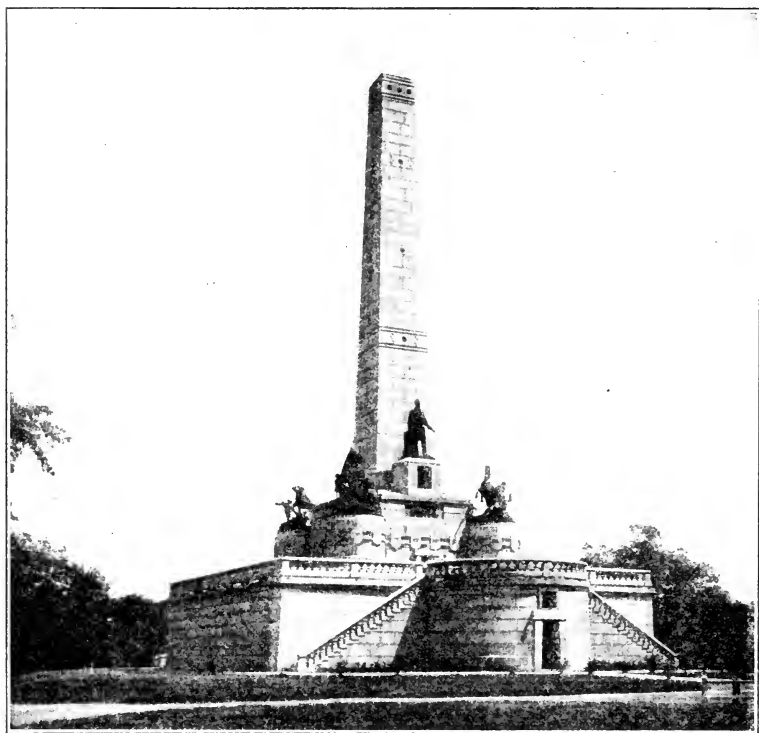
friends were indicted by the grand jury of Hancock county for riot. The Mormons resisted, but Smith finally surrendered, was taken to Carthage, and placed in jail. There he was killed by a mob June 27, 1844. Trouble between the Mormons and those who did not favor their religion continued, frequently ending in bloodshed, until finally they were forced to leave the state. Some sixteen thousand disposed of their property, built wagons and, in the spring of 1846, started for Salt Lake to found a new home.

Illinois Central Railroad. The state greatly needed a railroad running north and south through the fertile prairie land in the central portion of the state and connecting the Ohio River with the Illinois and Michigan Canal. In 1850 Congress granted the states of Illinois and Mississippi a large amount of public land to aid them in building a railroad from Chicago to the Gulf of Mexico. Each state received the alternate sections, six miles back on each side of the proposed railroad. Illinois turned its land over to a company on condition that the company should build the railroad from Cairo to Chicago, with a branch running to Galena by way of La Salle. The road was to be in operation by 1854, and the company agreed to pay the state, after 1857, seven per cent of all its receipts on these lines. The company pushed its construction work rapidly and had all the road in operation in 1856, so Illinois at last had railroads which enabled settlers to reach the rich prairie lands far from the rivers. Soon eastern and central Illinois was taken up and the best farming land in the state brought into cultivation.

Illinois in Politics. Illinois occupied a prominent place in politics during the years 1850-1860. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, the foremost figures of the period, were both from this state. The great Lincoln-Douglas debates occurred in this state and the convention which nominated Lincoln met at Chicago.

Illinois' Part in the Civil War. In the Mexican War and the Civil War Illinois did her whole duty and more. Richard

Yates was "war governor" and he effectively supported the war policy. He was among the first to answer the call of Lincoln for troops in 1861, and offered more regiments than were asked for. No state in the Union did more for its volunteers



LINCOLN'S TOMB AND MONUMENT, SPRINGFIELD

than did Illinois, and only one furnished more soldiers in proportion to its population. A total of 285,147 separate enlistments, or on the basis of three years of service, 214,133 soldiers must be credited to Illinois. Logan, the greatest volunteer general, and Grant, the greatest general of the war, both are sons of Illinois, as was also Lincoln, the President of the United States.

Opposition to the War. Not everybody in Illinois favored the war, and in few states was it so hard for men to decide what to do. So many Illinois families had come from the South that a civil war for them literally meant a war against brothers and cousins. It is no wonder there were southern sympathizers. Unfortunately the opposition to the war became partisan, and showed itself in the Constitutional Convention of 1862 and the Legislature of 1863. The first drew up a partisan constitution which was promptly rejected by popular vote. The



RICHARD YATES

latter adopted resolutions opposed to the war and conducted itself in such a way that Governor Yates finally adjourned it.

Industrial Development. Since the war Illinois has enjoyed a remarkable growth in industry, population, and commerce. Chicago, in spite of the great fire in 1871, has become the second city in the United States. The Chicago Drainage Canal connects Lake Michigan with the Illinois River and enables Chicago to dispose of her sewage without endangering the health of her inhabitants.

The coal mines have been developed, electric lines constructed, and important manufacturing plants established. Oil and gas in great quantities have been discovered in the southern part of the state and now Illinois ranks third in the Union in the production of oil. Whole cities and large factories use natural gas for light and fuel.

Illinois To-day. Illinois has always been noted for its agricultural resources, and is one of the foremost states in attempting to maintain permanently by scientific farming the fertility of her soil. The state is also contemplating the development of her facilities for water transportation, and proposes to make

use of the water power for commercial purposes. A private corporation has harnessed the Mississippi at Keokuk and electrical power is furnished to all the cities and towns near there.

Our soil and climate make us a great agricultural state, our rivers and numerous railroads have made us a great commercial state, and our abundance of coal and water power, and our large population are rapidly making us the greatest manufacturing state in the nation.

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Describe the plan to make Illinois a slave state. Was the Ordinance of 1787 effective after Illinois had become a state?
2. What effect have Indian wars had on settlements in Illinois? How near your own home were some of the Indian troubles?
3. Draw a map showing the proposed internal improvements. Which ones would have benefited the people near where you live, had they been completed?
4. Write an essay on the growth of Chicago.
5. Were the Mormons desirable settlers for Illinois?
6. How much did the Illinois Central Railroad pay to the state last year? To what extent did its construction affect the settlement of your home county?
7. Find out from each pupil when, why, and from where his ancestors came to Illinois. Note the historical periods or events illustrated in this study of immigration in your own school.
8. How many men from your own school district, township, and county enlisted during the Civil War? How many were killed? Were there any "copperheads" in your neighborhood? Are they good citizens to-day?

BOOKS FOR ADDITIONAL READING

1. Moses, "Illinois, Historical and Statistical."
2. Parrish, "Historic Illinois."
3. Smith, "Students' History of Illinois."
4. Davidson and Stuve, "History of Illinois."
5. Harris, "History of Negro Servitude in Illinois."
6. Morse, "Abraham Lincoln."
7. Johnson, "Stephen A. Douglas."

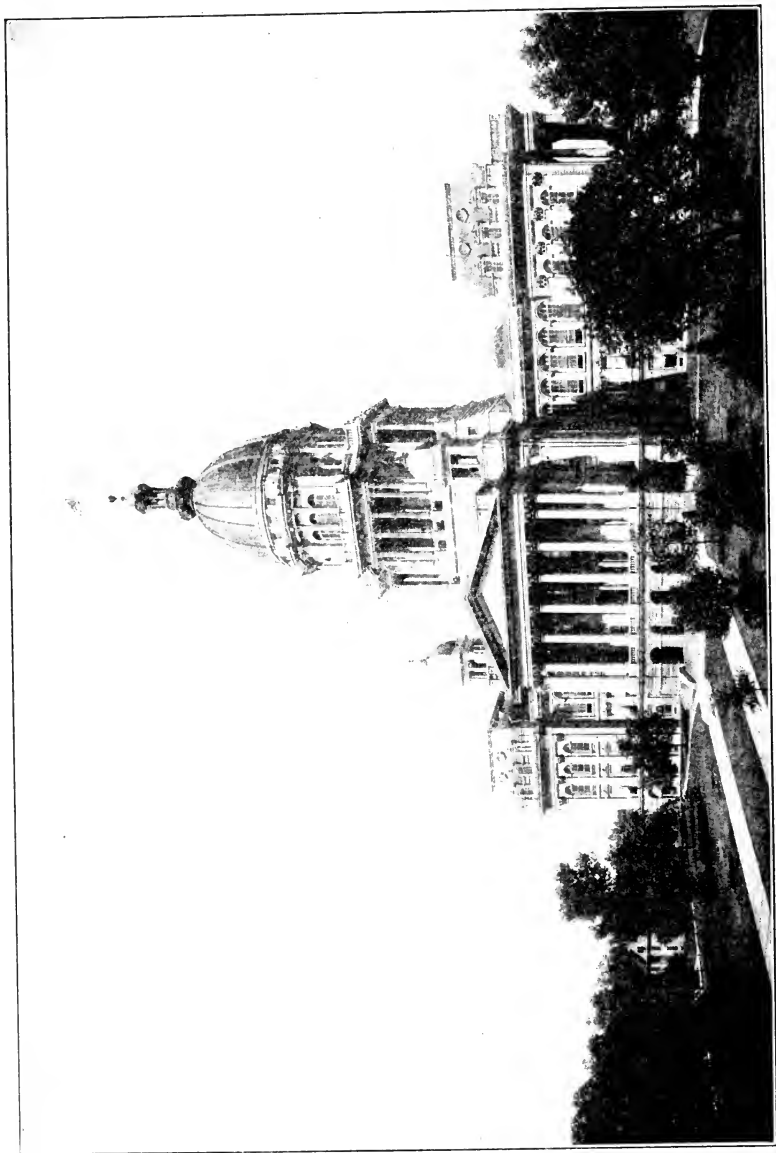
HOW THE STATE IS GOVERNED

Relation of the State to the Federal Government. The Constitution of the United States provides that all powers not given to the central government and not denied to the states belong to the states or to the people of the states. Consequently the state government does the things the United States government cannot do. Every person is subject to several sets of laws. In the first place, there are the laws made by Congress, then the laws made by the state legislature, and finally, those made by the city or town where he lives. These different laws do not conflict, but supplement each other.

The State Constitution. The state, like the national government, has a written constitution. Illinois now has its third constitution. Each was made by delegates elected directly by the people, consequently we may say that the people of the state make the constitution and have the right to change it when they wish. The body that makes the constitution is called a constitutional convention. After such a body prepares a constitution it is regularly submitted to the voters of the state to adopt or reject. The first constitution was put in force by the convention without submitting it to the voters.

Who May Vote. Any man who is a citizen of the United States, is twenty-one years of age, has lived in the state one year, in the county ninety days, and in his voting precinct thirty days may vote at all elections, unless he is disqualified because of insanity or conviction of a felony. Women may vote for presidential electors but a state constitutional limitation bars them from voting for state officers. They may vote, however, for municipal and township officers.

Bill of Rights. Three Departments. Our state constitution is like the United States Constitution in several ways. In the first place, it has a bill of rights, in which the usual safe-



STATE CAPITOL AT SPRINGFIELD

Illinois has had three capitals. The first was at Kaskaskia and the second at Vandalia.

guards of the individual's freedom are enumerated. In the second place, it provides for three separate departments—the executive, legislative, and judicial.

The Governor. The chief executive officer is the Governor who is elected for four years and is eligible for reëlection. He is paid a salary of \$12,000 a year and has the use of the executive mansion at Springfield. He is responsible to the people for the enforcement of a large number of laws and has the power to appoint officers to see that his orders are obeyed.

The Governor and the Legislature. The Governor also plays an important part in legislation. No bill can become a law without his signature, unless it is passed over his veto by two-thirds of each house of the legislature. He is also required by the constitution to recommend legislation and, in this way, he frequently exerts much influence in favor of laws which he thinks should be passed. By speeches, addresses, and special messages he can frequently attract the attention of the people of the state and arouse so much public opinion that the legislature is forced to pass laws which he recommends.

Other Executive Officers. There are several other executive officers besides the Governor, but their duties are mostly administrative. The Treasurer receives and pays out the state money on proper orders. The Auditor has to pass on the legality of every claim against the state and see that no money is paid out unless the state legislature has ordered it to be expended. The Superintendent of Public Instruction has charge of the educational department, makes addresses, advises with county superintendents, has school statistics prepared, holds examinations for state teachers' certificates, and is a member of the boards of trustees of the several normal schools and the State University. The Adjutant-General has immediate command of the state militia. The Attorney-General is at the head of the legal department of the state and furnishes legal advice to all state officers when requested to do so. He also brings suit in the name of the state when ordered to do so by the Governor.

The State Legislature. The legislature, officially known as the General Assembly, is composed of two houses. The smaller of these has fifty-one members and, like the upper house of Congress, is called the Senate. The members are elected for four years, and one-half go out of office every two years. The larger house has one hundred and fifty-three members, just three times as many as the smaller, and is known as the House of Representatives. The members, like those of the lower house of Congress, are elected for two years and all go out of office at the same time.

Election of the Legislature. Minority Representation. Illinois is divided into fifty-one senatorial districts. Each of these districts chooses one member of the state Senate and three members of the state House of Representatives. The representatives are chosen in a curious way, usually called the minority representation system. There are three members to be elected from each district, and each voter is given three votes. He may cast all of these for one man, or divide them up in any way he chooses. The three men receiving the highest number of votes are declared elected.

The system does not work well, because of the opportunity it offers for secret "plumping," or casting three votes for one man. It also results in limiting the number of nominations, so there is no contest in the election. In many districts one party nominates two candidates and the other one; and since there are three persons to be elected and only three candidates, all are sure of election. Many people think that this system of election is responsible for the presence of more or less corruption in the lower house of the state legislature, because the opportunity for plumping makes it difficult for an honest majority in a district to defeat, and so keep at home, a legislator with a bad reputation.

Organization of the Two Houses. Passing of Bills. The state legislature is organized very much like Congress. The House of Representatives calls its presiding officer a speaker

and the lieutenant governor is president of the Senate. Each has an elaborate system of committee and a set of rules, copied largely from those of Congress. Bills to become laws must be introduced, referred to some committee, reported, read three times on as many different days, and passed by a majority of all the members of each house. Each house keeps a journal of its proceedings, so any citizen may find out what action was taken on a measure.

The Committee System. As every bill must be considered by a committee, the most important work is done in the committee rooms; and as these are not public meetings, it is not always easy to know what is going on in them. Frequently committees kill desirable bills by refusing to report them, and hundreds of bad or unnecessary bills are disposed of in the same way at every session.

Sessions. The legislature meets in January of the odd numbered years, and is usually in session about three months, although there is no time limit. The Governor may at any time call special sessions to consider urgent matters or measures neglected by the legislature in its regular session.

The Judiciary. Circuit Courts. The entire state is divided into eighteen divisions called circuits. Each circuit has three or more counties, except one — Cook county making a circuit by itself. In each circuit three judges are chosen and these judges go from county to county and hold what are called Circuit Courts, which are the chief courts for criminal and civil suits in each county.

Appellate Courts. As courts sometimes make mistakes, there are additional courts whose business it is to correct mistakes. The first of these is the Appellate Court. The state, outside of Cook county, is divided into three large districts, and Cook county forms an additional district. In each district a court of appeals is held; that is, a court to correct the mistakes made by the circuit courts. Three circuit judges hold this court and two must agree to any verdict.

The Supreme Court. Even the court of appeals makes mistakes, so there is a Supreme Court of seven judges which meets at Springfield. Its business is to make final decisions on all questions of alleged error in the lower courts, to decide questions of constitutionality, and keep judicial procedure uniform throughout the state.

WHAT THE STATE DOES

Important Laws. The state does not exist to furnish offices for a few men, but offices are created because the state has important work to do. In the first place, the state enacts all the chief laws affecting property, inheritance, marriage, and divorce. It enacts the criminal code in which crimes against the state are defined and penalties provided for their commission. It grants charters to corporations of all kinds, thus enabling a large number of people to do business as a single individual.

Creates Minor Divisions. The state also creates, or permits to be created, all of the various local subdivisions, such as counties, townships, cities, and villages. All the powers which these various bodies exercise come from the state and may be altered by it at any time. General laws are just as binding within any one of these local divisions as elsewhere in the state.

Protects the Individual Citizen. Another very important duty of the state is to protect the life, property, and morals of its citizens. It does this by enacting general criminal laws to punish evildoers. It tries to see that the people are not poisoned by unsafe, or adulterated foods. It does this through a State Food Commissioner who has chemists and inspectors in his employ and has done much efficient work in securing pure and properly branded food products for the people of Illinois.

Protects Laborers. The state also protects the lives of thousands of workers by specifying the conditions under which they may be employed. Children under certain ages must not be employed in factories. Machinery of a dangerous kind must

be made safe. Women can be employed for only a limited number of hours per week. Conditions of labor in mines are carefully regulated. The state does not merely pass laws on such subjects and let people obey them or not as they please, but it has provided administrative bureaus to see that they are obeyed. The Factory Inspector and his assistants deal with all the conditions of labor above ground and the State Mining Board takes charge of all mining conditions.

Protects the Public Health. There is also a State Board of Health, with a secretary in charge of its work. It is the business of the Board to protect the people against contagious diseases. It does this by publishing bulletins containing descriptions of such diseases as diphtheria, smallpox, consumption, tuberculosis, etc. These are disseminated as widely as possible and instruct the public on the dangers of such diseases, — what to do when they appear, and how to disinfect clothing and premises which might contain germs dangerous to the health of others. The State Board also supervises the medical colleges throughout the state, examines and licenses physicians, and permits no one to practice medicine without a license.

The state also inspects barber shops throughout the state to see that they are run in a cleanly and sanitary manner. No barber is permitted to conduct his business until an inspector has given him a "clean bill of health." Danger of loss of life by fire in lodging houses and theaters is guarded against by the regulation of exits, air space, fire escapes, etc., through systematic inspection by state employees.

Steam boilers are another common source of danger. A state inspector now examines them at more or less frequent intervals and requires that they be made reasonably safe from all danger of explosion.

Regulates Private Enterprise. The state does not permit private individuals to conduct their businesses regardless of the rights of people engaged in other pursuits. The sale of alcoholic liquors is hedged about with numerous restrictions, because of

their known dangerous influence upon society. Saloon keepers must have special licenses to carry on the business, and then must not sell to minors or drunkards, and special power in the form of local option laws is granted to communities to protect themselves from the traffic.

Banking. Banks are required to conduct their business in such a way that their creditors may not suffer loss. The Auditor appoints an examiner who has power to inspect the various state banks and to compel them to obey the state laws. Building and Loan Associations come under the same general rule and are supervised and regulated under the general direction of the Auditor.

Insurance. Life insurance and fire insurance companies have unusual opportunities to defraud the public, for they operate through agents who are accustomed to make big claims in order to get business. No person can judge the truth or falsity of an agent's claims or know whether he represents a sound or an unsound company, unless he has access to the facts. The state requires every insurance company doing business in the state to file with the Insurance Superintendent a detailed statement of its exact financial standing; and the Superintendent is empowered to prevent any company from doing business in the state if its report shows it is not sound, or if, in any way, its statements as to condition are false. Thus when approached by an agent who wishes to sell insurance, a person knows that the company the agent represents is at least safe. In addition he may learn the exact condition of the company by consulting a copy of the report of the Insurance Superintendent, which may be had for the asking.

Railroads. Railroads being common carriers are carefully regulated. They are not permitted to charge what they please for carrying freight or passengers, nor are they permitted to charge higher rates to one individual than to another for the same service. Neither are they permitted to charge higher rates to one town than to another, when the length of haul

is the same or shorter. All these various regulations are enforced by the constant work of the State Railroad and Warehouse Commission.

Coal Mines and Factories. Owners of coal mines and factories are subjected to constant and careful regulation of their business so far as concerns conditions which may affect the safety or health of their employees. The regulations include protection of dangerous machinery, ventilation, firing of blasts, properly supporting the roofs of mines, hoisting devices, and means of escape in case of fire.

Aid to Private Enterprise. The state also lends substantial aid to many important private enterprises. Through the Farmers' Institutes and the College of Agriculture at the State University, it furnishes information on soils and their treatment, methods of cultivation, fertilizers and how to use them, insect enemies and how to fight them, and many other topics of direct practical importance to the grain farmer. Similar aid is given to the stock farmer and the fruit raiser. There is also special aid given the latter in the support given by the state to the State Horticultural Society. Farmers are also aided by the maintenance of a State Fair and by money paid by the state to aid the county fairs.

The soil of about one-third of the state is more or less acid. It has been found that finely pulverized limestone will greatly benefit such soil. The state employs the labor of the convicts at the state penitentiary at Chester to prepare the limestone, which is then furnished to the farmers of the state at the actual cost of manufacture. In this way the farmers receive considerable benefit.

Care of Dependents and Criminals. The state takes direct care of the insane and defective classes. In the six great hospitals for the insane several thousand persons are cared for. The state also has schools where the blind, the deaf, the dumb, and those of feeble mind may be educated and trained to do useful work.

The state has direct care of the criminals and maintains two state penitentiaries for that purpose, one at Joliet and the other at Chester. The prisoners are kept busy at useful occupations, the object being not to punish but to correct the criminal tendency, if possible. Under the parole system, when a convict is considered no longer dangerous to society, he is released on good behavior. If he conducts himself properly he remains free. If he again commits crime, he is returned to prison.

Education. The state takes a direct interest in education. The State Superintendent and his work have been mentioned. Five normal schools are maintained by the state for the preparation of trained teachers for the public schools. Then there is the University of Illinois with more than five thousand students, maintained wholly by the state. At this institution expert training is given in almost every field — professional, mechanical, and business — and its work is constantly widening. The state also maintains there experts to aid every other department of the state in its work.

Finally the state raises by direct taxation \$2,000,000 and distributes it to the various school districts of the state in proportion to their population of school age. In this way many poor districts are able to keep their schools open longer than they otherwise could and employ better teachers than they could, did the state not furnish such aid.

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. From the Illinois "Blue Book" make a list of all the state officers and state boards.
2. Make a similar list of all the state institutions. Locate each on a map of Illinois.
3. Secure copies of the bulletins from the State Board of Health and have the pupils learn the best methods of preventing and treating tuberculosis, smallpox, and diphtheria.
4. Secure from the various state boards bulletins which furnish information of value to the workers of your district, and have the children

learn just what the state is doing for the occupations in which their fathers are engaged.

5. Is the soil on the farms in your district acid? How may the acidity be corrected?
6. Is it necessary to elect all the state officers? Could they be chosen by civil service methods? What officers are now so chosen?
7. Could water power be developed in your neighborhood? Who should have the profits from such water power when it is developed? Will such water power increase in value? What will cause such increase? Is such power any more valuable than it was one hundred years ago? Will it be any more valuable one hundred years from now than it is at present? Who should get the benefit of the increased value?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Government. The entire state is divided into one hundred and two counties, which vary greatly in size and population. Eighty-seven of the counties are divided into smaller divisions called towns or townships, and fifteen are not so divided. All the counties are governed by county boards. In the counties having township organization, with the single exception of Cook, the county board is made up of men chosen from each township and called supervisors. In all the other counties the county board is composed of commissioners elected from the county at large. Cook county has fifteen such commissioners, while the other counties have but three each.

What the County Does. The business of a county government is to collect the taxes for local and state purposes; care for the poor; keep records of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, wills, deeds, mortgages, and all other transactions which may affect property rights; maintain courts, and enforce the criminal laws of the state.

Taxes. The money to run the local and state government is largely secured from a tax upon the property of the citizens of the state. The first step necessary in taxing is to determine how much property each individual has; that is, the property must be assessed. The County Treasurer supervises these assessments. He either does the work himself or employs deputies to do it for him in the counties not under township organization. In the counties under township organization there is an Assessor chosen by each town who makes the actual assessment, but works under the direction of the County Treasurer.

Each division of the state levies its own tax and these different levies are sent to the County Clerk who combines them and determines just what portion each person assessed shall pay.

Then he prepares books for the various men who are to collect the taxes. In the counties under township organization each town elects a Collector who does the work and pays the money over to the Treasurer. In the counties not under township organization the Sheriff collects the taxes.

Poor Relief. Persons in destitute circumstances can secure aid from the county. In most cases this can be done while living in one's own home. Where it seems best, people unable to care for themselves are sent to the workhouse or poor farm kept by the county. In the counties with township organization each Supervisor is a poor law officer for those living in his own town. When a case of destitution is reported to him it is his duty to investigate it, and if he thinks best, to order food, clothing, fuel, or shelter furnished. The bills for these supplies are presented to the county board of which he is a member and paid from the county funds.

Important Records. The records of vital statistics are kept by the County Clerk. When persons wish to marry they must go to him and get a marriage license, which is returned to him after the ceremony is performed and is entered among his permanent records. Physicians throughout the county report to him all births and deaths of persons under their care. In case of deaths due to accident or to other sudden cause where no physician was in charge, the death is immediately investigated by the County Coroner and the cause of death determined. Mortgages and transactions which involve titles to land are carefully recorded by a county officer. In some cases this officer is the Circuit Clerk and in others the Recorder.

Courts. In each county there are two kinds of courts, for the county is really the unit of the state for judicial purposes. In the first place there is a County Court, presided over by a County Judge, which tries persons accused of minor offenses, and usually has charge of the probate of wills. Where the county has a large population the latter work is sometimes done by a separate court, called a Probate Court.

The most important court in each county is the Circuit Court, which meets two or more times each year, and is held by one of the Circuit Judges already mentioned. It is in this court that all the important civil and criminal cases arising in each county are tried. It also grants divorces.

Enforcement of Criminal Law. For the detection of crime there is a Grand Jury of twenty-three men, chosen by the supervisors, which meets as a part of a session of the Circuit Court. Complaints are laid before it, usually by the State's Attorney, whose business it is to prosecute all violations of the criminal law in the name of the state. If the Grand Jury believes an individual has committed a crime, it returns an indictment against him. The indictment states what offense has been committed, with specifications of time and place. When an indictment is returned against a person, he must stand trial in open court, and there, before a Petit Jury of twelve, the State's Attorney must prove him guilty of the offense as charged in the indictment. If he fails to do so, the accused person goes free.

Schools. The county is also a school unit for supervisory purposes. Each county has a Superintendent of Schools whose duty it is to certify teachers before they are permitted to teach in the schools of the county. Teachers' examinations are given by a State Examining Board under the direction of the County Superintendents. A fee of one dollar is charged for each examination, and this is kept in a separate fund for the expenses of a County Teachers' Institute which is held each year for the benefit of the teachers of the county.

It is also a part of the Superintendent's duty to visit the various schools in the county, outline work to be done, conduct promotional examinations, and give the various teachers what help he can in the management of their schools. The office is one of great importance to the whole county and is non-political.

Care of Roads. In a rural district the care of roads is one of the most important duties of a local government, so far as the community is concerned. In counties not under township organ-

ization, this is done by the county board at the expense of the whole county; but in the other counties, only the larger bridges are kept up at the expense of the county. The smaller bridges and all the roads fall regularly to the care of the people in the town where they are located; consequently the care of roads is the most important duty of a town and, aside from the care of the town house, is about the only purpose for which a town levies taxes. There are three Commissioners of Highways in each town, and these appoint road overseers to look after the roads in particular sections of the town. In some portions of the state a poll tax, payable in money or labor, is levied upon every able-bodied man for the care of the roads. The law also permits each taxpayer to work out his road tax. It is not a good system and does not produce good roads.

The Town. The town is governed by a town-meeting which meets once a year in April at the time of the annual election of officers. Sometimes questions of real importance come up at this meeting, but more frequently the meeting is only formal. Other town officers are: the Town Clerk, who keeps records of the transactions of the highway commissioners and the minutes of the town meetings; the Supervisor, Collector, and Assessor, whose duties have already been described; and certain minor officers, such as Constable, Justice of the Peace, and Poundmaster.

The School District. In the country, the school district is the most important division for educational purposes. These vary greatly in size, have one or more schoolhouses, and are governed by three directors who employ the teacher, and see that the school is properly supplied with the things it needs. They also levy the taxes for the support of the school.

Township High Schools. In some places several districts have been combined into a special high school district and excellent high schools established in farming communities. These sometimes include a single township and sometimes parts of two or more townships.

City and Village Government. Villages and cities have special governments to meet their particular needs. The governing body in the former is the Village Board and its President. It has the power to make local improvements; such as sidewalks and paving, provide lights for the streets, regulate the sale of liquor, maintain order, and protect health and property. When a village has a population of one thousand and an area of not less than four square miles it may organize as a city. Since the cities have larger numbers of people to care for than villages, they are given special powers of self-government. Usually these are only extensions of powers exercised by villages, but in some cases they are new duties caused by the large populations living in small areas. Under the general law cities are governed by a City Council and a Mayor who have the power to make local rules or ordinances on a great variety of things.

What the City Does. A city must look after the health of its people. To do this there is a local Board of Health with power to close public buildings, enforce quarantine rules, force people to clean up their premises, and do anything else which may be necessary to protect the public health. The city must keep itself clean in order to be healthy. To do this it has officers whose especial duty it is to clean the streets and alleys. Others dispose of garbage of various kinds which comes from dwellings and business houses. Others are busy building and keeping in repair sewers to drain the city and carry away its filth. Others are busy providing the people with pure water, for a city must have a constant supply of good water in large quantity. Cities also maintain public parks and playgrounds where people may go for fresh air, shade, and recreation.

Protection of Morals, Life, and Property. A city also has special problems in the protection of the public morals, maintaining order, and preserving life and property from danger. There is usually a more or less efficient Police Department which is responsible for order on the streets and the capture of crim-

inals. A Fire Department stands ready at all times to assist in extinguishing fires when they break out, and the City Council enacts a multitude of special rules which cover all of these points; such as, fixing fire limits within which frame buildings cannot be built, limiting the height of buildings, regulating exits, fire escapes, etc.

Public Service. In addition to what has been given, a city has many business problems to meet. One of these is transportation on its streets, either by street cars, cabs, or some other system. Another is supplying electric light or gas for lighting the streets and homes of its residents. Still others are telephone service, milk supply, regulation of weights and measures, and erection of public buildings.

Finally each city is a school district in itself and maintains a complete system of schools, from the lowest grade to the high school. The head of the city school system is usually called a superintendent.

As our population is increasing most rapidly in our urban centers, city government and city problems are becoming each year more important, and laws must be constantly changed to meet changed conditions.

Commission Form of City Government. By a law passed in 1910 the people of any city may, by popular vote, adopt the commission form of city government, and several cities, including Springfield, have done so. Under this plan five commissioners, elected from the city as a whole, take over the duties of the Mayor and Council and exercise all the powers of the city government. The advantage claimed for this system is that each commissioner has charge of a definite part of the city's government and is responsible for the way it is conducted. If the police fail to do their duty, the people know whom to blame. In this way it fixes responsibility upon a few men who can be watched by the voters. If any commissioner fails to do his duty, or does it in a way the people do not like, he may have his office taken away from

him by a special election. This method of removal is known as the recall.

Duty of the Citizen. It is the duty of every citizen to be interested in his government and see that it is run intelligently and economically. He should insist that public officials do their duty and should aid in enforcing the law. In his home city he should take an active part in keeping the streets, alleys, and parks clean; and the best place to begin is with his own premises. No one likes to see paper, leaves, and dirt on the streets, and no one can do more to keep his city clean, healthful, and beautiful than the boys and girls. Look about you and see what you can do yourself and what you can encourage your neighbors to do. Be a help and not a hindrance to good government.

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Who are your county officers, when were they elected, how long do they serve, what does each do?
2. Are there any poor people in your district who have to have support from the county?
3. Why should people be very careful what kind of a man is elected for Supervisor?
4. Are all the laws enforced in your community? Do you know of any violations of law? Who is responsible for the enforcement of the law which you see violated? Have you complained to this officer and called his attention to the violations? Is not that your duty?
5. Are the roads in your neighborhood in good condition? Why not? How may they be improved? Does it pay to have bad roads?
6. Whose business is it to keep the streets clean? Is a person a good citizen who litters up the streets and parks?
7. To what officer would you go in the following cases: a serious fire, to fix a clogged sewer, to mend a broken bridge, if a pupil came to school with a case of measles, if you found a man dead in the street or on the road, if your neighbor allowed his premises to become offensively dirty, if some one in your town keeps slot-machines?

GOOD REFERENCE BOOKS

1. "Blue Book of the State of Illinois."
2. Greene, "Government of Illinois."
3. Trowbridge, "Illinois and the Nation."
4. Hurd, "Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois."
5. Reports of the state boards and of the state agricultural experiment station at Urbana.



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